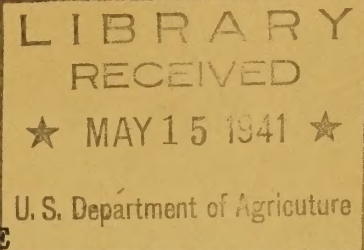


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ECR-Committeeman Letter No.217



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration  
Washington, D. C.

April 26, 1941

Dear Committeeman:

The importance of announcements made by the Department of Agriculture regarding the new food for defense program probably has not been fully understood. It is imperative that all farmers fully understand the importance of this program. The food for defense program expands the Ever-Normal feed supplies of the AAA Program into Ever-Normal food supplies for ourselves and the other Democracies.

Increases are sought in supplies of pork, dairy products, poultry, eggs, and vegetables. It has long been pointed out that the farm program can be used for both upward and downward adjustments.

Farmers are more than willing to do their part in this program, but if they are to do so they must get reasonable prices for the things produced. To help farmers in making the required adjustments, the Government will support prices on the needed foods -- prices fair to farmers and consumers. The price-supporting measures will be continued until June 30, 1943.

Here is a brief summary of the program:

Poultry

An increase of at least six percent (10 million cases) is needed in egg production. This increase can be obtained through improved feeding, better care of eggs, and full use of poultry equipment. Hatchery chicks should be increased 15 percent.

Dairy Products

A six to eight percent increase (around 7 billion pounds) in milk production is needed, primarily for use in dried and evaporated milk, cheese and butter. This can be accomplished by better feeding and by adding to dairy stock.

Pork Products

The average weight of hogs should be increased by 25 pounds. The 1941 fall pig crop should be increased at least 15 percent. An additional 15 percent should be added to the 1942 spring pig crop.

Vegetables

An increase of from 33 to 50 percent (about 15 million cases) is sought in canning tomatoes. Smaller increases are needed in corn, peas, and snap beans for canning. Larger acreages and increased fertilization of tomatoes should be stressed.



The approximate levels at which prices of these products will be supported are as follows:

Eggs: 22¢ a dozen, Chicago basis, fresh graded firsts.  
Chickens: 15¢ a pound, Chicago basis.

Dairy products: 92-score butter, Chicago basis, 31¢ a pound.

Hogs: \$9.00 a hundredweight, Chicago basis, good heavy butcher hogs.

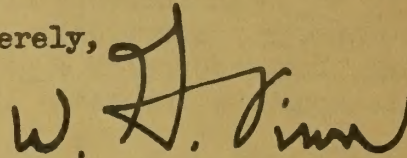
Tomatoes for canning: Support through direct market purchases.  
Allowance for increases from \$2.75 to \$3.00 per ton over 1940 contract prices will be made.

Committeemen should make proper contact with local market representatives to assure that prices paid farmers fully reflect the increases afforded by this program.

The Nation is pledged to aid other Democracies of the World. The farmers of America now have the opportunity to contribute to this aid by increasing production of needed commodities.

The AAA has pledged its whole-hearted cooperation in furthering this agricultural phase of the Defense Program. It cannot succeed unless every farmer is well informed. To inform farmers is your responsibility and, again, we know you will not fail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. G. Finn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "F" and "i".

W. G. Finn  
Director, East Central Division